

Closing prayer

Together:

**Lord,
the death of your Son gives us hope and strengthens our faith.
May his resurrection give us perseverance
and lead us to salvation.**

(Prayer after Communion, Passion Sunday)

Stewardship link

Just as in the first reading the prophet Isaiah is given speech so that he might know how to reply to the weary, we trust that God will give us what we need in order to do the work that God needs us to do.

To do

Try to take some time each day in the coming week to ponder the readings, listening to the word of God with open ears, heart and mind, alert to new insights.

Take some time to note your responses in your notebook.

Diocese of Portsmouth Stewardship Reflection Passion Sunday Year C

**‘The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.’**

(Isaiah 50:5)

Opening prayer

Leader:

Let us pray
for a closer union with
Christ
during this holy season.

Response:

**Almighty, ever-living God,
you have given the human race Jesus Christ our Saviour
as a model of humility.
He fulfilled your will
by becoming man and giving his life on the cross.
Help us to bear witness to you
by following his example of suffering
and make us worthy to share in his resurrection.**

(Opening Prayer for Passion Sunday)



To share

What insights have you had in the last week? Is there something in your notebook that you would like to share with others in the group?

To listen

Before each extract is proclaimed, a brief introduction will be read to set the scene.

Isaiah 50:4-7

These verses are filled with a sense of trust, and defiance in the face of opposition and insult. On one level, we see how they are resonant of the experience of anyone oppressed for their beliefs (Isaiah was writing in a time of great tribulation). On another level, we recognise them as prophetic of Jesus' experience and, perhaps, even of our own.

Philippians 2:6-11

This piece of writing begins by reminding us that Jesus was divine, and that he lived on earth with genuine humility, obedience, acceptance and service to his Father in Heaven. It then shows Jesus being raised by God the Father, from the position of a man as lowly as a slave to one whose holy name is praised and glorified above all other names, one who is Lord of all.

Luke 23:1-49 (or longer form 22:14-23:56)

Luke's version of the Passion of Jesus emphasises (as does his whole Gospel) Jesus' concern for those around him and his willingness to forgive, even as he is dying.

To think about

What do we learn about discipleship in the reading from Isaiah? What links or similarities can you find between the reading from Isaiah and that from Philippians?

To reflect on

Have you ever reached a low point when you have felt rejected or unappreciated and in turning to God have been raised up?

Most people at some time in their lives have a personal journey to Calvary. What can we learn from these readings to help us persevere in faithful discipleship?

To discuss

What aspects of Jesus' character are prominent in Luke's account of his passion? What kind of God do Isaiah, Paul and Luke invite us to relate to?

